

Cooperation

Grade Level	Fifth
Minimum Time Required	30 Minutes
Materials/Resources	Handout
Subject Area(s)	Guidance

Project Description:

1. Discuss with the students: "What things are important in order for a group to work together?" (cooperation, sharing acceptance, no put-downs, encouragement, etc.) Explain that "Today we are going to look at cooperation."
2. Ask the students:
 - a) "What does cooperation mean?"
 - b) "Who must cooperate to make the following situations happen?"
3. Print each of the following situations on a card. Ask students to draw a card and read it aloud.
 - a) A construction worker building a house
 - b) An athlete running a race
 - c) A salesperson selling a product
 - d) A quarterback on a football team

Discuss how each one requires the skills of other people, even if it first does not seem so. (For example, an athlete needs a coach, a salesperson needs to be trained.)

4. Have the students complete the following activity:

Dog Mystery (or Who Locked The Dog In The Closet) (See attached clues.) Explain to the students, "We are going to solve a Dog Mystery. Each slip I hold contains one clue that will help you solve the mystery. If you put ALL the facts together, you will solve the mystery. You must find the person who did it, the reason why, when it happened, and how it was done (weapon)."

Divide the class into 2 groups. See which group solves the mystery first. Tell the students:

- a) They may organize themselves in any way they want within their groups.
- b) They may **not** pass clues from their group to another.
- c) All sharing of clues within a group must be done verbally to the whole group.

Remind the groups that each member has an important clue and the group won't be able to solve the mystery without the cooperation of everyone. The groups will need to encourage the quieter students to talk, and help the talkative students to listen. (The teacher should stay out the groups' process as much as possible.) Each group will be allowed one guess when the time is up.

When the students are ready and sitting in their groups, distribute one clue to each student. Some may receive more than one. There are 23 clues. Let students solve the mystery. (This activity takes 30-45 minutes.)

Solution to the Dog Mystery (Do not allow the students to see this.)

Who did it: The Teacher

Why: He/She wanted to teach the students responsibility.
They had not been watching the dog.

What time: 12:30 P.M.

"Weapon": The spray water bottle.

Follow-Up Questions:

- a) "What problems did you have in getting started?"
- b) "How did you remember all of the clues?"
- c) "Was there a leader or did everyone help out equally?"
- d) "How did this activity make you feel?"
- e) "Do you feel as if you've accomplished something?"

Career Development Standard	Skills to interact with others. Awareness of the importance of personal responsibility and good work habits.
Career Development Indicator	Demonstrate effective skills for interacting with others. Describe the importance of cooperation among workers to accomplish a task.
Delivery Level	Review
Academic Standards	
Language Arts	4.1.b Present oral information in a clear and organized manner. 4.1.c Use responses of others to determine speaking effectiveness.
Employability/SCANS Skills	Interpersonal Skills Basic Skills Thinking Skills
Assessment/Rubric	Students will be evaluated on group participation skills and the solution to the activity.

Submitted by: NCDG Elementary Group

Dog Mystery Clues

(Cut apart into slips)

1. When Teddy the puppy was found, he was drenched with water and covered with mud. He was found in the teacher's storage closet.
2. David was asked by his neighbor to care for Teddy for three days. His teacher told him not to do it.
3. The teacher thinks that the fourth grade class has no sense of responsibility.
4. Cindy and David liked each other, in fact, they were attending Friday night's dance together.
5. The door handle of the closet had Cindy's fingerprints on it.
6. Teddy had been locked up for one hour straight.
7. The teacher had lectured the class on their lack of responsibility.
8. Teddy jumped on Cindy's new dress and got mud all over it.
9. The janitor reported to the principal that he saw Teddy at 12:15 P.M.
10. David hated dogs, and especially Teddy because he jumped on Cindy's new dress.
11. Cindy rearranged the teacher's storage closet so that it was free of clutter.
12. David last saw Teddy at 12:10 P.M.
13. The janitor hated Teddy because of the muddy paw prints in the hallways.
14. Cindy was mad at David because Teddy because he dug up her flowers.
15. Mrs. Jones was upset with Teddy because he dug up her flowers.
16. When the janitor last saw Teddy, the dog was muddy but not wet.
17. Teddy was afraid of water.

18. Teddy was found at 1:30 P.M.
19. Teddy tried to be friendly with David, however, David only wanted to punish him somehow.
20. The teacher was seen walking down the hallway with a spray water bottle at 12:30 P.M.
21. During the lunch hour, the kids forgot to watch Teddy.
22. The teacher saw Teddy wandering around, loose, in the schoolyard.
23. Teddy would come to anyone who called him.